

AD-A116 606

RAND CORP SANTA MONICA CA  
REVIEW OF MIGRATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE UNITED STATES: N-ETC(U)  
DEC 81 J DAVANZO  
RAND/P-6720

F/6 5/3

ML

UNCLASSIFIED

1 of 1  
AD-A116 606



END

DATE

FILED

7-82

DTIC

AD A116606

2

REVIEW OF MIGRATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE UNITED  
STATES: NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND METROPOLITAN  
PERSPECTIVES, BY MICHAEL J. GREENWOOD

Julie DaVanzo

December 1981

DTIC FILE COPY

SELECTED  
JUL 8 1982  
A

This document is approved  
for release  
on 10/1/82

82 07 07 041  
P-6720

REVIEW OF MIGRATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE UNITED  
STATES: NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND METROPOLITAN  
PERSPECTIVES, BY MICHAEL J. GREENWOOD\*

Julie DaVanzo

December 1981

\*To be published in the Journal of Economic Literature. The preparation of this review was partially supported by a Population Research Center grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. The helpful suggestions of Peter A. Morrison are gratefully acknowledged.



A

Migration and economic growth in the United States: National, regional, and metropolitan perspectives. By MICHAEL J. GREENWOOD. Studies in Urban Economics Series. New York; London; Toronto and Sydney: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Academic Press, 1981. Pp. xiii, 233. \$24.00 ISBN 0-12-300650-3

This book, which brings together and adapts material from six of Greenwood's previously published articles, has three stated objectives: (1) "to present a fairly detailed description of the post-World War II behavior of selected variables that are central to an understanding of the evolution of urban size and composition in the United States; (2) to develop and empirically test models of both metropolitan growth and intrametropolitan location--models that are aimed at explaining the observed behavior of many of the variables described herein; and (3) to provide, in the context of the descriptive chapters, a good deal of carefully composed data that other students of urban processes and policies might find useful in their work."

How well has Greenwood accomplished these objectives? For the first and third, I'd say quite well. He furnishes data from over 60 government publications to describe trends and areal differences in migration, labor force growth, employment growth, unemployment rates, and income. Patterns and trends in these data (which have been carefully corrected for the effects of boundary changes) are considered at various geographic scales--national (Ch. 2), regional or divisional (Ch. 1 and 3), metropolitan (Ch. 4), and intrametropolitan (central city/suburb)(Ch. 5). The discussions of trends at these different scales are interrelated well.

These first five chapters furnish a host of data, thereby satisfying objective (3): 45 tables, averaging over 150 numerical entries each. The discussions of the metropolitan and intrametropolitan data often deal with particular SMSAs, typically at one or the other extreme of the dimension being discussed, e.g., highest (lowest) rates of employment growth. These data, and the comparisons they afford, should interest readers concerned with particular areas, and how they have fared relative to other areas in the same or different regions. However, the reader with more general interests may find them too detailed.

Greenwood suggests a variety of possible explanations for many of these patterns and trends. For example, the variations over time in migration rates may result from the aging of baby-boom cohorts, decreases in marriage rates, increases in divorce rates, reductions in fertility, or increases in female labor force participation rates. Typically, however, he presents no rigorous tests to assess the relative importance of these alternatives. Other times, simple statistical tests are performed (e.g., rank correlations of SMSAs' 1970 size and 1950-60 or 1960-70 growth rates), but, with no particular hypothesis to test, it is not clear why these relationships should be examined.

There are a few instances, however, where Greenwood juxtaposes data and theory, and the results are informative--as when he debunks the conventional wisdom. For example, he shows that the Northeast and North Central regions of the U.S. experienced net outmigration of low-income persons, contrary to the popular belief that migration has concentrated low-income populations in these regions. In fact, the view of migration that emerges from this book is a generally positive one, in which move-

ment of population serves to relieve a number of metropolitan-wide problems.

As already suggested, the book is least satisfactory in achieving objective (2)--explaining the behavior of many of the variables described in Chapter 1-5. This explanation is attempted in Chapters 6-8 via the presentation and estimation of two simultaneous-equations models. The first, consisting of 14 equations, estimates for metropolitan areas interrelations between migration and rates of growth of the civilian labor force, employment, unemployment, and income. The second, consisting of nine equations, deals with intrametropolitan location of employment, housing, and labor force. Both use data on the same 62 SMSAs covered in Chapters 4 and 5 and are estimated separately for 1950-60 and 1960-70 time periods. The intrametropolitan model usefully disentangles the relationships between housing growth, labor force growth, and central city/suburban population distribution and relates well to the descriptive material presented in Chapter 5. However, the model of metropolitan growth and migration, other than using the same data, bears little relation to the earlier discussion (in Ch. 4) of the descriptive material. The model considers relatively few of the explanations offered prominently in the descriptive chapters--for example, the roles of amenities/disamenities, technical change, and rising female labor force participation rates are notably missing. Regional differences (in intercepts only) are explored in the econometric model, but these results are never related to the extensive descriptive materials on regions presented in Chapter 3. In fact, there is relatively little general interpretation and discussion of the empirical results. Cur-

ously, the chapters that present the model of metropolitan growth and migration are the only substantive chapters without a concluding summary section.

The book's final chapter discusses policy aspects of migration and urban employment growth but, like the preceding model sections, relates only weakly to the material that precedes it.

Despite these shortcomings, Migration and Economic Growth in the United States should be a useful addition to urban economics. It summarizes the findings of over 100 studies of migration and urban growth and furnishes quantities of data which, while difficult for the reader to digest, should provide useful inputs for researchers seeking a better understanding of the processes and relationships that are more fully described than explained in this book.

DATE  
FILMED  
-8